

WESTERN DAKOTA TECH

800 Mickelson Dr. • Rapid City, SD 57703

p. (800)544-8765 p. (605)394-4034 f. (605)394-2204

Nick Wendell
South Dakota Board of Technical
Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501-2291

Dear Nick:

Please accept this letter as notification that Western Dakota Tech is will begin offering an embedded certificate within the Electrical Trades Program beginning Fall 2019 semester. This Mechanician certificate will meet the high need of mining industries as well as increase career opportunities for our students not only locally, but also across the world.

Being centrally located within hours of numerous mining and industrial complexes, the need for skilled mining employees is an on-going concern. Caterpillar, Inc. approached Western Dakota Tech regarding the high need for this skill set and their desire to work collaboratively with WDT and South Dakota School of Mines & Technology to better train the future mining workforce. This collaboration with Caterpillar, Inc., brought forth this certificate option which will provide students with the necessary education and training consistent with current industry practices while also incorporating already established foundational courses from our other programs.

Labor market information for this type of position is more difficult to find because of this quickly emerging field. State and national labor data for industry fields similar to a Mechanician include:

SD Bureau of Labor Statistics 2016 - 2026			
Position	2016	2026	2016 - 2026 %
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	1,222	1,458	1.78%
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	1,024	1,132	1.01%
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	1,656	1,779	.72%
Electricians	2,288	2,383	4.15%

National Bureau of Labor Statistics 2016 - 2026			
Position	2016	2026	2016 - 2026 %
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	476,100	508,200	7%
Diesel Service Technicians and Mechanics	478,800	304,600	9%
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	391,300	415,300	6%
Electricians	666,900	726,500	9%

Information provided directly from Caterpillar, Inc. includes the following for Command for Hauling Service Technicians:

- 50 new Caterpillar sites with 100 Service Technicians for each site. The same number of sites for competitors.
- Command for Hauling Service Technician salary - \$60,000 to \$80,000 in the United States and \$80,000 to \$100,000 in Australia

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Furthermore, students who complete the Mechanician certificate option and decide to return to Western Dakota Tech in the future, will be able to enter a seamless pathway into the Electrical Trades Associate of Applied Science degree.

In summary, the addition of this degree option to WDT's programs is a great benefit to the students and local industry employers. In addition, these changes better align the programs with the WDT mission "...a commitment to academic excellence to teach the knowledge, skills, and behaviors students need to be successful."

The CIP code for this embedded Mechanician certificate will be 15.0901.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Respectfully,



Dr. Bolman

President

President Bolman
Western Dakota Tech
800 Mickelson Drive
Rapid City, SD 57703

President Bolman,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the proposal Western Dakota Tech is submitting for a Mechanician track as part of their already established Electrical Trades program.

Mining is a key industry in South Dakota's economic landscape. The country's leading gold mining center was once operated in Lead. The mine closed in 2001, but other types of mining including some gold mining continue today. Construction sand, gravel and stone are mined regularly and South Dakota is considered a mineral-rich state with minerals such as gypsum, silver and copper. It has been a challenge finding qualified employees with specific skills in electronics, networking, and mining basics, not only in South Dakota, but also across the world. Advanced technologies are used in the mining industry today and it is critical that a highly trained workforce is available to serve our industry now and into the future. Based on feedback provided by Caterpillar, we believe Western Dakota Tech has created a solution help us with this challenge.

Caterpillar fully supports the efforts of Western Dakota Tech as it seeks approval to establish this new training option. We are also committed to supporting Western Dakota Tech with internship opportunities, serving on advisory boards and making this training opportunity a success.

Regards,

Thank you,

Justin Sanchez
MineStar Training Manager
MineStar Solutions

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